

 **NEWARK BETH ISRAEL  
MEDICAL CENTER**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For information contact:

Steven H. Solomon, Beth Health Care (201) 928-7175

Ellen L. Greene, Saint Barnabas Health Care (201) 533-5045

**NEWARK BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER AND SAINT BARNABAS  
MEDICAL CENTER ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR AN AFFILIATION**

Beth Health Care Services Corporation, parent of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark, N.J. and Saint Barnabas Health Care System, parent of Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N.J. have agreed to pursue an affiliation of the two medical centers that would create the state's largest health care delivery provider. It is anticipated that a definitive agreement will be concluded in 60 days.

It was agreed that during the negotiations neither health care system will discuss affiliations with any other network. The affiliation will require certain government approvals.

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is a 607-bed regional-care, teaching hospital founded in 1901 and is the only hospital in New Jersey where heart and lung transplants are performed.

Saint Barnabas Medical Center is a 620-bed hospital founded in 1865 that has New Jersey's only certified burn facility. The Saint Barnabas Health Care System is also the parent corporation of Union Hospital, a 201-bed, short term, acute-care hospital.

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**THE BETH**  
Department of Public Relations

201 Lyons Avenue • Newark, New Jersey 07112 • Telephone: (201) 928-7175 • FAX: (201) 282-0316  
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Trustees from the boards of both health care systems met over the last several weeks to discuss a possible relationship. At a Nov. 20 meeting, members of the Beth Health Care board authorized the execution of a letter of intent to pursue the proposed transfer of control of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center to Saint Barnabas.

It is expected that contracts will be negotiated over the next few weeks to ensure continuation of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's historic Jewish commitment to service, education, and community. The medical center is close to completing a multi-million dollar construction project that will add about 200,000 square feet to the medical center's campus in a project that includes the Lester Z. Lieberman Center for Ambulatory Care, an Outpatient Building, and a renovation and expansion to the Department of Emergency Medicine.

"As an individual hospital, we can no longer go it alone in continuing our Jewish mission to deliver the best quality health care to the people we serve in the City of Newark and surrounding communities," said Lester Z. Lieberman, chairman of Beth Health Care. "We are enthusiastic about the prospect of becoming part of what we think is the strongest health care delivery system in the State of New Jersey."

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center last year had 22,755 admissions and annual operating revenues of \$244.1 million. It has 3,328 employees.

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"We think this is a great opportunity to further Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's historic mission of providing services to the City of Newark and the residents of the South Ward," said Ronald J. Del Mauro, president and chief executive officer of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. "Our merger will emphasize quality and efficiency to ensure patient access to a full array of primary and tertiary care services."

Saint Barnabas Health Care System, with 7,000 employees, has 55,000 admissions and annual operating revenues of \$550 million. In addition to Union Hospital, it is affiliated with a family health center in Elizabeth, a multi-care medical center in Clark, and four nursing homes with more than 850 beds.

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